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A Complex Thought

v.1.2

This is a sketch of a complex thought which is still forming in my head, or maybe has formed, and I am trying to come up with words to adequately explain it.

The thought started today when I read some articles on the Internet involving the "big bang theory" and the concept of time, etc.

It occurred to me that the measurements being made of background radiation etc., were only meaningful because the human brain is capable of experiencing/understanding/believing in something we call background radiation.

Put another way, let's use as an example a thermometer to measure air temperature. Our brain tells us that there are some things we call hot and cold. If our brain didn't tell us this, then we wouldn't have a thermometer because the concept for the need for the existence of a thermometer wouldn't exist, nor would the concepts needed to make one exist.

So, all of the measurements scientists use to examine "background radiation" and the like are only measurements of something or somethings that our brain tells us exist. If our brain didn't tell us that something exists we wouldn't have machines to measure those things/stuff, because there wouldn't be knowledge of their existence.

Of course, even if we had no concept of heat, we would have noticed that when two pieces of metal rapidly rub together, one or both tend to deform or melt. We might have the concept of friction, but not a concept that heat builds up during friction, because we would know nothing of heat.

So, scientists might invest a lot of brainpower into theorizing why the metal melts/deforms, and might invest a lot of time and money building machines to try to detect "stuff" which might explain the deforming of the metal. Some scientists might have noticed a "sound" before the metal deformed, and so various hypotheses and theories might be formulated to explain the sound, which are then investigated using costly devices trying to determine how and why the sound causes the metal to deform.

Regardless, we would still only have a theoretical "belief" as to what was causing the deformation, not an actual understanding of "heat", because in our example our brains can't understand the concept of "heat".

The concept that our brains create our world is similar to Plato's *shadow on the wall* allegory, which tells us that all we know are the shadows on a wall, not what is causing the shadows, or that they are shadows. To better understand this, take a course in the area of psychology called *Sensation & Perception*, or go to:

http://allpsych.com/psychology101/sensation_perception/

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